

News Release

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Washington DC Ceremony Honors Idaho Disability Advocate: Kelly Buckland to be Inducted into Hall of Fame for Spinal Cord Injured

Bethesda, MD – Kelly Buckland, Executive Director of the Idaho State Independent Living Council will be inducted into the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Hall of Fame™. Formed by the National Spinal Cord Injury Association (NSCIA) in 2005, the SCI Hall of Fame was created to celebrate and honor individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the quality of life and advancements toward a better future for all individuals with spinal cord injury.

Kelly Buckland is a person with a disability who has been actively involved in disability issues since 1979. Over the past two decades, he has worked closely with the Idaho State Legislature on issues affecting people with disabilities, including passage of the Personal Assistance Services Act. Kelly has testified before Congress several times on issues such as universal health care, Fair Housing and Appropriations. He has been closely involved with the direct-service and systemic change aspects of the Independent Living movement. Kelly is currently employed as the Executive Director of the Idaho State Independent Living Council and is President of the National Council on Independent Living. Kelly was nominated in the Legislative category for SCI.

2007 SCI Hall of Fame inductees will be formally inducted at the third annual SCI Hall of Fame™ induction ceremony at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on the evening of November 6th.

Inductions will be in 14 categories and an “Emerging Leader” award. Nominations were vetted and confirmed by the Hall of Fame committee. Nominees were included in an online balloting process by which NSCIA members determined top finalists in each category. Finalists were reviewed by a broad based Selection Committee to make the final determination of inductees.

The *SCI Hall of Fame* gala event honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the quality of life and advancements toward a better future for all individuals with spinal cord injury. Previous inductees are: Christopher Reeve, Teddy Pendergrass (PA), Marilyn Hamilton (CA), Senator Tom Harkin (IA), Barry Corbet, John Hockenberry (NY), Randy Snow (TX), Rory Cooper (PA), Duane French (WA), Wise Young (NJ), The Medtronic Foundation, Joni Eareckson-Tada, Bob Kafka, Congressman James Langevin, Joe Shapiro, Lex Freiden, and Dave Kiley.

The mission of The National Spinal Cord Injury Association (NSCIA) is to enable people with spinal cord injury and disease (SCI/D) to achieve their highest level of independence, health, and personal fulfillment by providing resources, services, and peer support.

NSCIA actively advocates for best practices and public policies that proactively affect people with SCI/D, their families and service providers. The Association conducts public policy initiatives through its local chapters and at the national level and actively collaborates with other national organizations on issues of mutual concern.

For details and updated information, visit www.spinalcord.org.

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